

**Amendments to the Claims**

1. (Currently amended) An improved hands-free speakerphone for use with a communications system, said speakerphone comprising:  
a speaker element; and  
a housing for enclosing the speaker element, the housing having an outer surface and forming ; ~~and~~ at least one anti-sealing speaker port ~~formed in the housing to~~ permit sound generated by the speaker element to be passed therethrough;  
wherein the housing forms an elongated recess on the outer surface, the elongated recess being in communication with the at least one speaker port for reducing the risk of a seal forming between the housing and a user's ear.
2. (Currently amended ) The hands-free speakerphone of claim 1, ~~wherein the housing comprises an outer surface portion surrounding the at least one speaker port, the outer surface portion possessing~~ possesses sufficient curvature so as to reduce the risk that the outer surface portion including the at least one speaker port can be sealed against the ear of a user ~~placing the at least one speaker port proximate the user's ear.~~
3. (Currently amended ) The hands-free speakerphone of claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a front portion and a back portion that ~~adjoins~~ adjoin along a parting line in a fixed relationship when the hands-free speakerphone is assembled for use, the at least one speaker port being located proximate to the parting line.
4. (Original) The hands-free speakerphone of claim 3, wherein the at least one speaker port is formed on an inner surface of the parting line.

5. (Original) The hands-free speakerphone of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of speaker ports formed in the housing in a spaced relationship relative to each other.

6. (Original) The hands-free speakerphone of claim 5, wherein the spaced relationship includes sufficient spatial separation between speaker ports to reduce the risk that the housing can be sealed against the ear of the user.

7. (Original) The hands-free speakerphone of claim 6, further comprising a parting line formed along the exterior of the housing, and wherein the at least some of the plurality of speaker ports are formed proximate to the parting line.

8. (Original) The hands-free speakerphone of claim 7, wherein the housing comprises a first portion and a second portion and the parting line is formed at the juncture of the first housing portion and the second housing portion.

9. – 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A hands-free speakerphone for use in connection with a telephone communications system, the hands-free speaker comprising a housing having a front face and a back face each having a perimeter, and a curved side face extending between the front face and the back face along at least a portion of their respective perimeters, ~~a first housing portion and a second housing portion that, when assembled, retain a speaker element in a substantially fixed relationship with respect to the assembled housing,~~ the housing forming at least one speaker port a plurality of speaker ports formed in a spaced apart relationship along the curved side face;

~~having a position and orientation such that sound produced by the speaker element reaches the at least one speaker port substantially indirectly, the at least one speaker port being formed on a curved surface of the housing, the curved surface wherein the curved side face of the housing possessing possesses~~ sufficient curvature to avoid a seal being formed between the speakerphone and the ear of a user placing the at least one speaker port of the plurality of speaker ports proximate to the user's ear.

14. (Currently amended) The hands-free speakerphone of claim 13, wherein the housing comprises a first portion and a second portion that adjoin at a parting line forming an elongated recess, ~~further comprising a parting line formed on an exterior surface of the housing,~~ wherein the at least one speaker port of the plurality of speaker ports is located proximate the parting line.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) The hands-free speakerphone of claim ~~13~~ 14, ~~further comprising a~~ wherein the plurality of speaker ports formed in the housing are formed proximate to the parting-line recess.

17. (New) The hands-free speakerphone of claim 14, wherein the first housing portion comprises a mating surface including a raised portion, and wherein the second housing portion has a mating surface forming a recess such that when the speakerphone is assembled, the raised portion is received into the recess to form the parting-line elongated recess.

18. (New) The hands-free speakerphone of claim 17, wherein at least one speaker port of the plurality of speaker ports is formed by a discontinuity in the first-housing mating-surface raised portion.